

**CHILD WELFARE
ADMINISTRATIVE MEMO #9-2008**

TO: Service Area Administrators
Protection & Safety Administrators

FROM: Todd L. Reckling, Policy Section Administrator *Todd L. Reckling*
Division of Children and Family Services

APPROVED BY: Todd A. Landry, Director *Todd A. Landry*
Division of Children and Family Services

DATE: July 1, 2008

CONTACT PERSON: Chris Hanus, Administrator, Child Welfare Unit
(402) 471-9308

RE: Safety and In-Home Services

Effective Date: July 1, 2008

Duration: Until revised

Purpose: Implementation of Safety and In-Home Services Contracts

Service Area Direction: Additional information regarding Service Area implementation will be provided by each Service Area.

Introduction and Background

On March 17, 2008, the Division of Children and Family Services (CFS) released a Request for Bid (RFB) for the provision of a continuum of Safety and In-Home services to children who are at risk of removal from the family home or to prepare a family for return of child/children to the home.

In the last few years, the State of Nebraska has ranked among the highest in the nation for the number of state wards in out-of-home care per capita. A major reason given for the high removal of children and youth from their family home has consistently been the need for additional safety and in-home services to support maintaining the family unit safely while services are offered to the parent/youth to afford them the opportunity to make the changes necessary to provide for a safe home and/or to assure community safety.

The Safety and In-Home Services will promote the Division of Children and Family Services' outcome: to increase the number of children and youth who remain with their families safely while in the Department's custody. Currently, approximately 70% of state wards are in out-of-home care setting and 30% are with their parents. CFS will be working toward the future goal of serving more children and youth safely in the family home.

Children and Family Services received a good response to the RFB and after review of bids, issued Letters of Intent to Award contracts to successful bidders on May 6th. The following providers now have signed Contracts to begin the provision of services effective July 1, 2008.

Western	Boys and Girls Home of NE		
Central	Boys and Girls Home of NE	VISINET, Inc	
Northern	Boys and Girls Home of NE		
Southeast	CEDARS	VISINET, Inc.	
Eastern	Child Saving Institute	VISINET, Inc	Boys Town

The providers listed above will be the ONLY Contractors for the Services listed below effective July 1, 2008. The Contractors may have subcontract relationships for these services. However, the Contractor is the responsible party regardless of any subcontract.

There are eleven services for safety and in-home services released by DHHS/CFS. Some services are brand new to the Department; others will seem familiar. Even services that sound familiar should begin to look different to families and staff effective July 1, 2008. New and familiar services are to be provided utilizing Evidence Based or Promising Practice models. Contractors are working to achieve outcomes of Safety, Permanency and Well-Being for children and families. Those services are:

1. In-Home Safety Service: This service secures a provider in the family home within two hours of request by DHHS to provide supervision, surveillance and monitoring of children in the family home, even if the parent is present, while the safety assessment is being conducted. This service can continue as defined in the continued safety plan. The provider of this service is to have face-to-face contact with the family within 2 hours of Protection and Safety Staff making a referral for the service. This service should only be used when a family member or other informal support person cannot be identified as a safety plan participant. **New Service**
2. Home Supported Services allows for children to remain in the home but to receive supervision and support services outside the family home, to cover specific times of the day (less than 24 hours) when safety cannot be controlled or managed within the family home. Children will remain placed in their family home and these services support the safety of the children during the assessment period and as defined while a safety plan continues. **New Service**
3. Residential Safety Services are a temporary out of home placement while the safety assessment is being conducted. **This replaces Emergency Shelter Centers.**
4. Family Engagement is a service in which the provider identifies family members and supports available to the children/family. This service includes the completion of a genogram and ecomap. **New Service**
5. Family Support Services provide education and training to parents to ensure they gain the necessary skills to parent their children safely and/ or to children so they can the ability to follow the direction of authority figures and ensure community safety.
6. Tracker Services provide supervision and monitoring to children who are not compliant with the parameters set by the authority figures in their lives when other less intrusive

methods of learning have failed to modify their behavior. This service is only available to youth adjudicated as delinquent and/or Status Offenders.

7. Global Positioning or Electronic Monitoring provides for electronic surveillance of adolescent children to ensure that they are where they are suppose to be, when they are supposed to be there when other less intrusive methods of learning have failed to modify their behavior.
8. Drug Screening and Testing services monitor the usage of drugs and/or alcohol by youth when they are identified to have a substance abuse problem and education and treatment alone are not successful in modifying their behavior. Only youth adjudicated as delinquent and their offense is related to substance abuse may access this service.
9. Visitation/supervision services provide for supervised visits between a parent and a child or children if it has been determined that the children are not safe with a parent even for short periods of time.
10. Intensive Family Preservation services provide the parents the ability to supervise, monitor, educate and train their family on appropriate interactions and behaviors while having realistic expectations.
11. Respite Services provide a short break from the situation to allow everyone a breather from the stressors of the given situation.

Actions Required to Implement Services

1. Staff have been end dating all current Service Approvals and Service Authorizations for the above listed Services for any Contractor not listed above effective June 30, 2008. Service Approvals and Service Authorizations that will continue after June 30, 2008 will need to be modified to reflect new rates and new services.

Information on the new rates for Services has been provided. Please note that Contractors may be receiving different rates for the same service. The rate variances are based on the Providers' bid to the State related to the type of evidence based/promising practice model they have chosen to implement.

2. The Service Area Administrators and Contractors for each Service Area have determined a process to transition cases from current providers to the new providers of in-home and safety services by July 1, 2008 with the least disruption in services.
3. To access Safety and In-Home Services effective July 1, 2008, the worker will call a toll free number available in each Service Area. The worker will request the required service, on behalf of the family, once convergence has occurred in the safety/case plan process. The worker will provide the Contractor with a copy of the safety/case plan upon referral. The worker will authorize the service on N-FOCUS and provide a service authorization to the provider prior to services being implemented or in a crisis situation by the end of the next working day. It is the responsibility of the provider to contact the ASO to register for service provision.

Once the worker has contacted the toll free number they should know who the provider is, when contact will be made with the family and a plan for who the provider will contact if there is a crisis with the family that requires an immediate response from CFS. The worker should

also schedule a time/process to be notified of family compliance with the intervention selected and immediate notification if the family does not respond to intervention within the agreed timeframes. The worker is responsible for the monitoring of all safety plans on a weekly basis during the completion of the assessment and then a minimum of every 30 days. The Contractor may be part of the safety plan monitoring process, however, the worker is responsible to review/edit/change and approve the continued safety plan on a weekly basis during the assessment and monthly thereafter. As indicated in policy, workers continue to be responsible to facilitate family team meetings every three months to assure the appropriateness and effectiveness of the interventions selected to address the needs of the family.